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What's happening

What's Happening

NatStats 2010 Conference

15-17 September 2010 Darling Harbour Sydney

NatStats 2010 Conference

ABS and the National Statistical Service will be hosting the second NatStats Conference at Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour, on 15-17 September 2010. The conference theme is "Measuring what counts: economic development, wellbeing and progress in 21st century Australia", and will explore drivers of economic and related social change that are shaping Australia's progress. Conference speakers will highlight the

importance of statistics in understanding and responding to these challenges. As a participant, you will have the opportunity to contribute your ideas for improving Australia's statistical system for the future.

Dr Ken Henry AC, Secretary to Commonwealth Treasury, will deliver the conference's opening plenary address. The Hon Dr Geoff Gallop AC, Director of Graduate School of Government at University of Sydney will deliver a presentation focused around improving the wellbeing of Australians. Prof Paul Cheung, Director of United Nations Statistics Division, will also speak as part of a detailed panel discussion "Measuring progress: from theory to practice", alongside Dr David Gruen, Director of Treasury's Macro-Economic Group.

Other speakers include: Ms Jane Halton PSM, Secretary of Dept of Health and Ageing who will speak on the role of statistics in health; and Mr Paul McClintock AO, Chairman of COAG Reform Council, on the measurement of disadvantage, inequality, and social inclusion. Ms Martine Durand, Chief Statistician and Director of OECD Statistics Directorate, and Mr Phil Lowe, Assistant Governor (Economic) of Reserve Bank of Australia will together examine changes we can expect to witness in the global economy and implications for Australia.

For a full list of confirmed speakers, program and registration information, please visit the NatStats Conference website or email natstats@nss.gov.au.

NatStats 2010:

Date: Wed 15 - Fri 17 September 2010

Venue: Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour

Cost: \$795 Early Bird (until July 16, 2010), \$995 Full Fee

Review of uses of Labour Employer based Statistics

It is important for ABS to understand the needs of its clients so that relevant statistics are produced. ABS is currently reviewing the uses made of labour employer statistics produced, and is seeking comments and feedback about how these data sets are being used. The suite of labour employer statistics under review are:

- Average Weekly Earnings (ABS cat. no. 6302.0)
- Employee Earnings and Hours (ABS cat. no. 6306.0)
- Employment and Earnings, Public Sector (ABS cat. no. 6248.0 55.002)
- Industrial Disputes (ABS cat. no. 6321.055.001)
- Job Vacancies (ABS cat. no. 6354.0)
- Labour Costs (ABS cat. no. 6348.055.001)

If you would like to contribute to this review, please forward your submission by email to [labour.employer.surveys@abs.gov.au](mailto/labour.employer.surveys@abs.gov.au) by no later than 6:00pm (AEST), 26 July 2010. If you have any queries or would like to discuss your submission, please contact Manpreet Singh at manpreet.singh@abs.gov.au or on (08) 9360 5363.

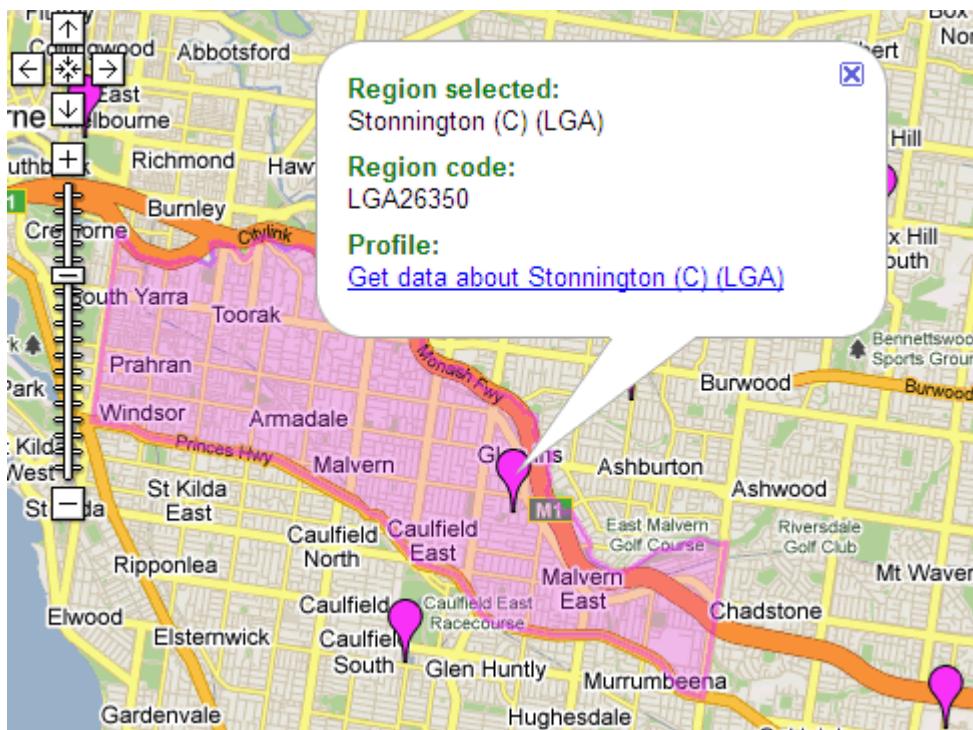
National Regional Profile

The latest National Regional Profile (NRP) (cat. no. 1379.055.001) contains data snapshots for over 2,000 regions across Australia, with five years of data where available.

For each region you will find a range of data divided into four categories: 'economy', 'population/people', 'industry' and 'environment/energy'. The data are from ABS and other sources, for geographic areas such as Statistical Local Areas, Local Government Areas,

State/Territory and Australia. Data are presented for all years on common boundaries, making it easy to compare data over time. Included for the first time are data on estimates of household wealth, age of motor vehicles, water use on Australian farms and selected government pensions and allowances.

This latest NRP has a very new look to the 'entry' page, which uses an interactive map and list to find your region of interest.



Screen shot of Stonnington LGA in the NRP

As an example, comparing the Local Government Area (LGA) of Stonnington with Bayside, their profiles show that:

- Stonnington had an average taxable income of \$95,552 in 2006-07, while in Bayside it was \$85,072.
- As at 31 March 2008, both LGAs had high proportions of vehicles less than five years old (over 30%).

If you want to compare more than a few regions at a time, you can do this by using the SuperTABLE datacube in NRP. For example, you could find that:

- Stonnington had the highest average taxable income in Victoria in 2006-07, and also the largest percentage increase from the previous year (14.8%). Bayside had the second highest average taxable income in that year.
- Within Victoria for year ending 30 June 2008, Stonnington had the second highest average value of private sector houses (\$855,600), while Bayside had the fifth highest (\$535,500). Melbourne (C) had the highest average value of private sector houses (\$901,300).

The NRP is available from the ABS Home page, or directly from this link: [National Regional Profile](#). Help using the NRP includes 'How to find a region', 'Comparing regions', and Demonstration Videos.

Mining broadly relates to the extraction of minerals occurring naturally as solids such as coal and ores, liquids such as crude petroleum, or gases such as natural gas. The mining industry contributes about 8% to Australia's gross domestic product (GDP) and half the value of total goods exported.

ABS's Mining Statistics Newsletter 2009-10 (8418.0) notes that Australia has a large percentage of the world's economic demonstrated resources (EDR's), including resources which are inaccessible for mining because of environmental restrictions, government policies or military lands. EDR's are proven or probable resource reserves. As at December 2008, Australia had 38% of the EDR for Nickel, 38% for Uranium, 33% for Lead, 28% for Zinc and 25% for Brown Coal. Other significant amounts of the world's EDR (including inaccessible resources) reserves within Australia include 20% of Silver, 16% of Industrial Diamonds, 15% of Iron Ore and 13% of Gold. Source: Geoscience Australia, Australia's Identified Mineral Resources 2009, Table 1.

In 2008-09, West Australian mining businesses employed the most persons (56,000 persons), followed by Queensland (37,000) and New South Wales (24,000). Overall, employment in the mining industry rose marginally in most states except for Tasmania, where levels remained constant. In total, employees of Australia's mining industry took home \$15.5 billion in wages and salaries, \$2.8 billion more than the previous year.

On an industry basis, mining over the last four years has almost tripled the value of exports, with sales in 2008-09 valued at \$117.6 billion. In terms of production in that period, the main mineral products were black coal (raw), iron ore, bauxite and alumina; while natural gas and crude oil and condensate were the two main petroleum (field) products. The major markets for Australian minerals and petroleum are Japan (25% of total mineral exports by value), China, Republic of (South) Korea and India.



The Long Walk: Nothing short of a hit!

The ABS Statistical Literacy Unit and the Victorian Census Management Unit sponsored over 100 young participants from rural and regional Victoria to participate in The Long Walk, an Indigenous community event raising awareness of Indigenous cultures and building the capacity of Indigenous communities. The sponsored children and teenagers travelled to Melbourne from their homes in Lake Tyers, Mildura, Swan Hill, Robinvale, Kerang, Bendigo and Nowa Nowa.

The young visitors, together with passers-by, participated in a handball competition (pictured above) which helped develop their statistical understanding by graphing target-hitting scores, interpreting percentages of goals scored, and using player rankings to determine relative performances. The activities were designed to be a fun and exciting way to relate statistics to the students' interests, and it proved to be hugely popular, both with the young people as well as their group leaders, parents and guardians. The event also helped the ABS to raise awareness about Census 2011, and the important role the Census plays in

Australia's democracy.

The festivities were followed by a commemorative walk to the MCG for 'Dreamtime at the G', the AFL's Indigenous round between Essendon and Richmond.

The Long Walk is an annual event inspired by Essendon champion Michael Long's landmark trek in November 1994, when he walked more than 650 kilometres from his home in suburban Melbourne to Parliament House in Canberra in order to put Indigenous issues on the national agenda. The Long Walk is not only a tribute to Michael Long's efforts, but also a vehicle for facilitating Indigenous leadership development and for promoting Indigenous community well-being.

ABS-sponsored activities at Federation Square were among a host of other activities and performances at the event, including the Koorie Night Market, traditional Indigenous games with Essendon and Richmond players, signing sessions with Indigenous sporting heroes, Indigenous Hip Hop project workshops and shows by Indigenous performing artists.

The ABS would like to thank all the students, teachers, parents, community leaders and volunteers who helped to make the ABS' participation in The Long Walk a very BIG success!



Local Government Portal now on the ABS website

A Local Government Portal is now accessible on the ABS website. This page is aimed at assisting ABS clients in the local government sector to find information required for planning and delivering services to their communities. Resources include:

- Finding Data for Local Government Areas
- Finding Data for States/Territories
- Helping you use data
- How the ABS uses your data
- Keeping you informed
- Helpful links for Local Government Organisations

Six-monthly revisions to Estimated Resident Population

Estimated Resident Population (ERP) revisions will occur six-monthly from September 2010 onwards with the release of Australian Demographic Statistics March quarter 2010 (cat. no. 3101.0). These improvements are designed to give a more current and accurate ERP by using up-to-date Net Overseas Migration (NOM) data. While this will not have any impact on the difference between preliminary and final NOM estimates, this change will provide for earlier release of revised ERP figures.

With the introduction of improved methods for estimating Net Overseas Migration, ABS has developed an analytical data set called the Travellers Characteristics Data Base. These improvements allow the derivation of an individual's actual travel behaviour (using final NOM data) and record certain characteristics for any traveller who has contributed to NOM.

For further information see Demography News, June 2010 (Cat no 3106.0, released

08/06/2010).

Using Statistics for Evidence Based Policy

ABS has recently developed a 'Guide for Using Statistics for Evidence Based Policy' that is now available on the ABS website. The guide provides useful information about how statistics can be used to make informed policy decisions, and includes:

- What is evidence based decision making?
- How good statistics can enhance the decision making process
- Using statistics for making evidence based decisions
- Data awareness
- Understanding statistical concepts and terminology
- Analyse, interpret and evaluate statistical information
- Communicate statistical findings
- Evaluate outcomes of policy decisions

What is a Data Quality Statement?

A Data Quality Statement is a presentation about the quality of a data item or collection of data items, using the ABS Data Quality Framework. A Data Quality Statement allows potential users to make informed decisions about fitness for use and reliability of data. This FAQ sheet on the National Statistical Service website has more information.

Farewell to the Editor

The Victorian Statistical Leadership Branch would like to take the opportunity to thank and farewell our former editor of Statistics Victoria, Alan Page.

Alan served at the Australian Bureau of Statistics for 27 years before retiring on 25 June 2010. He has been the editor of Statistics Victoria since its inception in 2002, and played an instrumental role in bringing this issue of Statistics Victoria together before his departure.

We are sure you will join us in thanking Alan for his contributions to the ABS and wishing him a long and enjoyable retirement.

Recent releases

Recent Releases

Selected releases

1301.0 Year Book Australia, 2009–10. Released 04/06/2010.

Year Book Australia is the principal reference work produced by ABS. It provides a comprehensive statistical picture of the economy and social conditions in Australia. In addition, it contains useful information on Australia's geography and climate, environment, government, international relations, defence, education, health and welfare systems.

Feature articles in this release include: Girl Guides Australia, celebrating '100 years of

changing lives'; Australia's Biodiversity, highlighting the importance of Australia's unique biodiversity to individuals, society and the economy, and; Languages of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, a uniquely Australian heritage.

3236.0 Household and Family Projections, Australia, 2006 to 2031. Released 08/06/2010.

This publication contains projections of households, families and living arrangements for Australia, states/territories, capital cities and balances of state. Three main series of projections are presented. The number of Australian households is projected to increase by up to 4 million over the next 25 years, from 7.8 million households in 2006 to up to 11.8 million in 2031.

Family households project the largest increase and remain the most common household type in Australia. Family households are projected to increase by as many as 2.4 million households, from 5.6 million in 2006 to up to 8.0 million in 2031.

Couple only families are projected to increase the most rapidly of all family types over 25 years. If recent trends continue, couple only families will overtake the number of couple families with children in either 2013 or 2014. This is mainly related to population ageing, with baby boomers becoming 'empty nesters'.

The number of Australians living alone is projected to increase rapidly, by up to 91% over the next 25 years to 3.6 million by 2031.

3304.0 Perinatal Deaths, Australia, 2008. Released 15/04/2010.

This publication presents statistics on the number of fetal, neonatal and total perinatal deaths for reference year, by state or territory, sex and cause of death. Data include 2008 (preliminary) and 2007 (revised) perinatal cause of death data.

In 2008, Victoria had 567 perinatal deaths [all fetal deaths (at least 20 weeks gestation or at least 400 grams birth weight) plus all neonatal deaths]. This gives a rate of 7.9 deaths per 1,000 all births.

3416.0 Perspectives on Migrants, June 2010. Released 15/06/2010.

As part of the ABS Census Data Enhancement project, an experimental data file was created by linking de-identified information from the Department of Immigration and Citizenship's Settlement Database to a 5% de-identified sample of records from 2006 Census. An ABS Research Paper describing the linking process and assessing the quality of the linked file was released in August 2009. An article presents experimental estimates from the linked file relating to Humanitarian Program migrants. This release includes a cumulative list of 14 articles on migrants written since Feb 2008.

4102.0 Australian Social Trends. Released 30/06/2010.

The ABS released the latest edition of Australian Social Trends (cat. no. 4102.0) on 30 June 2010. The publication draws together a wide range of statistics from the ABS and other official sources to provide a picture of Australian society and how it is changing over time.

The latest edition features six articles:

- Population growth: past, present and future
- Men's health

- Child care
- Underemployment
- Who's afraid? Feelings of safety
- Environmental awareness and action

The publication shows that:

- Victoria had the highest proportion of adults (66%) who reported their water consumption had decreased, compared with the Northern Territory and Tasmania which had the lowest (22% and 31% respectively).
- In the five years to June 2009, Melbourne added more to its population than any other Australian city, while inner Melbourne added 41,000 people, more than any other inner city.
- The proportion of adults in Victoria who felt unsafe when alone in certain situations (28%) was just over the national rate (26%) and considerably lower than the proportion in the Northern Territory (35%) and Western Australia (32%).

A related publication is Measures of Australia's Progress (MAP) (cat. no. 1370.0), which asks '**Is life in Australia getting better?**' The next edition is due for release on 15 September, 2010 as a web based publication. Spreadsheets containing the data used in MAP will be available to download, and for headline indicators state and territory data will also be available (where applicable). The publication will also include, for the first time, a slim-line brochure which highlights key information from MAP.

4307.0.55.001 Apparent Consumption of Alcohol, Australia, 2008-09. Released 27/05/2010.

In Australia during 2008-09, apparent consumption of alcohol through ready to drink, pre-mixed beverages was 13.1 million litres, or 0.74 litres per person. This was a fall from 18.7 million litres in 2007-08, or 1.08 litres per person.

This contrasts to an increase in apparent consumption of alcohol in the form of spirits, which rose from 20.2 million litres (or 1.17 litres per person) in 2007-08 to 22.9 million litres (or 1.29 litres per person) in 2008-09. The apparent consumption of beer and wine also increased, by 1.7% and 2.2% respectively. In total, there was very little change (0.1%) in the apparent consumption of pure alcohol between 2007-08 and 2008-09.

Overall, there were 10.1 litres of pure alcohol available per person aged 15 years and over in 2008-09, equivalent to a little more than two standard drinks per person per day. Nearly half of the 10.1 litres of alcohol was in the form of beer (4.5 litres), with about a third in wine (3.6 litres).

4390.0 Private Hospitals, Australia, 2008-09. Released 31/05/2010.

There were 564 private hospitals operating in Australia during 2008-09, compared with 557 in 2006-07. This was an overall increase of 1.3% in the number of private hospitals; the net effect of a decrease of 10 Acute and psychiatric hospitals, and an increase of 17 Free-standing day hospitals.

The number of available beds and chairs increased 1.9% from 26,678 in 2006-07 to 27,180 in 2008-09. The number of beds and chairs in Acute psychiatric hospitals increased by 1.1% and in Free-standing hospitals by 11%. Total patient separations were 10% higher overall in 2008-09 compared to 2006-07. There were 3.4 million patient separations from all private

hospitals in 2008-09, compared with 3.1 million in 2006-07. The number of private hospitals offering cosmetic surgery in Australia increased 14.2%, from 63 in 2006-07 to 72 in 2008-09.

Australian private hospitals provided 8.1 million days of hospitalisation to patients in 2008-09, up 6.1% on 2006-07 (7.7 million). Staff numbers (full-time equivalent) increased by 6.1% to 52,114 in 2008-09 compared to 2006-07 (49,103). In Victoria, the number of available beds and chairs in Free-standing day hospitals increased 2.6% from 575 in 2006-07 to 590 in 2008-09.

4510.0 Recorded Crime - Victims, Australia, 2009. Released 03/06/2010.

During 2009 in Australia, there were 18,800 victims of sexual assault recorded by police, with 25% of victims aged 10 to 14 years. The majority (84%) of all sexual assault victims (all ages) were female. Females were also the most prevalent victims of kidnapping/abduction (55%), while males were the most prevalent victims of robbery (75%), attempted murder (74%), murder (71%), and blackmail/extortion (69%).

Residential locations were the most common place of occurrence for offences of unlawful entry with intent (68%), sexual assault (67%), murder (65%), attempted murder (62%), and motor vehicle theft (40%). The street/footpath was the most prevalent location where victims were robbed (46%) and kidnapped/abducted (45%).

For sexual assault offences, which totalled 3,354 victims in 2009, a higher proportion of male victims knew their offender than female victims (73% and 66% respectively).

In 2009 in Victoria there were 121 victims of homicide and related offences, 3,088 victims of robbery, 13,272 victims of motor vehicle theft, 28,298 victims of assault, 45,181 victims of unlawful entry with intent, and 115,059 victims of other theft.

4512.0 Corrective Services, Australia, Mar 2010. Released 17/06/2010.

Based on first day of month averages for the March quarter 2010 in Australia, there were 85,594 persons under the authority of corrective services (excluding those in periodic detention). The total comprised 28,852 persons in full-time custody and 56,742 persons in community-based corrections. This represents an increase of 2% (2,033 persons) from the March quarter 2009. Over the same period, persons in full-time custody increased by 5% (1,380 persons) and persons in community-based corrections increased by 1% (653 persons).

Nationally, the March quarter 2010 average daily imprisonment rate was 171 prisoners per 100,000 adult population, an increase of 2% from the March quarter 2009 (167 prisoners). Northern Territory had the highest imprisonment rate (676 prisoners per 100,000 adult population), followed by Western Australia (281) and New South Wales (187); while Australian Capital Territory and Victoria had the lowest imprisonment rates (71 and 106 prisoners per 100,000, respectively). Western Australia recorded the largest proportional increase in imprisonment rates from March quarter 2009 (17%), with the largest decrease in Tasmania (9%).

In Victoria during March quarter 2010, the average daily number under corrective services authority was 4,504 persons. Of this, 281 were Indigenous persons, and 93% were males.

4515.0 Federal Defendants, Selected States and Territories, 2008-09. Released 27/05/2010. First Issue.

Just under a third of federal defendants finalised in Australia's Criminal Courts during

2008-09 were charged with fraud, deception and related offences. A further 29% were charged with offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations. A total 35,600 offences committed against Commonwealth legislation were finalised for 14,000 defendants in 2008-09.

There were 13,200 people charged with at least one federal offence in the Magistrates' Courts; 600 in Higher Courts; and 170 in Children's Courts. New South Wales had the highest proportion of national federal defendants (35%), followed by Victoria (24%) and Queensland (22%).

Victoria had the highest proportion of offences finalised by the courts, (28% or 9,800 offences), followed by Queensland (25%) and New South Wales (21%).

4602.2 Household Water, Energy Use and Conservation, Victoria, Oct 2009. Released 23/06/2010. First Issue.

High income households in Victoria tended to have more environmentally sustainable sources of energy and water than low income households. Victorian households earning \$110,000 or more per year were more likely to have insulation, solar energy and rain water tanks than households with income below \$25,000 per year. However, high income households were also more likely to have an air conditioner, a clothes dryer, a dishwasher and more televisions than low income households.

Most high income Victorian households had insulation (80%) and almost a third had a rain water tank (31%). While a small proportion had solar energy (7.4%), this was still much higher than low income households (1.8%). Not only did more than three quarters of high income households have air conditioners (76%), but high income households were also more likely to have two or more air conditioners than low income households.

Seven in ten high income households (71%) had a clothes dryer compared to 40% low income households. Over three quarters of high income households had a dishwasher (78%) compared to 29% low income households. The survey collected information on Victorian household water and energy sources, insulation, energy use, swimming pools and gardens, as well as personal public transport use, all of which may have implications for resource use, and by extension, emissions such as greenhouse gases.

Of the 600,100 Victorian households with a rainwater tank, a greater proportion of households in regional Victoria (46%) had rainwater tanks than Melbourne (22%). Households without a rainwater tank in Melbourne were more common with rented dwellings. Some 257,700 households with a rainwater tank in Victoria had it plumbed into the dwelling.

4614.0.55.002 Energy in Focus: Energy Efficiency of Australian Homes, Apr 2010. Released 30/04/2010. First Issue.

A collection of articles examine energy efficiency in Australian households. This includes use of renewable and green energy sources, size and building characteristics of Australian homes, and selection and use of household appliances and white goods. Solar energy was used by 7% of Australian households for heating water in 2008, well up on 2005 (4%). From 1994 to 2008, the number of homes with four or more bedrooms rose from 21% to 29%. In 2005, heaters and coolers accounted for 41% of household energy use. The proportion of homes with dishwashers increased between 1994 and 2008, from 25% to 45%.

The residential sector accounted for about 8% of Australia's total energy use in 2006–07 (ABARE 2008). Space heating/cooling and water heating together accounted for nearly two-

thirds (63%) of household energy use (DEWHA 2008).

4618.0 Water Use on Australian Farms, 2008-09. Released 19/04/2010.

Total agricultural water use rose 4% to 7,286 gigalitres in 2008-09 (from 2007-08). However, compared to 2005-06, total agricultural water use in 2008-09 was down in almost every state, particularly New South Wales (down 56%) and Victoria (down 49%).

The amount of irrigation water used by Australia's 40,000 irrigating agricultural businesses increased 3% to 6,501 gigalitres in 2008-09. Water use increased 14% in New South Wales and 12% in Queensland; partly offset by a decline in Victoria, down 10%, Western Australia, down 21%, and South Australia, down 6%. Queensland continued to be the largest irrigating state, using 2,058 gigalitres of water for irrigation in 2008-09. Western Australia had the highest application rate at 4.7 ML/ha of irrigated land. The largest decrease in area irrigated was in Victoria, down 13% to 371,000 hectares.

In 2008-09, the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) accounted for 38% of Australia's irrigating agricultural businesses, 53% of all irrigated agricultural land, and 54% of irrigation water applied. The largest use of water by farmers in the Murray-Darling Basin was for irrigation of cotton (793 gigalitres), cereal crops for grain or seed (707 gigalitres) and pasture for grazing (518 gigalitres).

In Victoria, the main use of irrigation water was pasture for grazing (591 gigalitres), accounting for just under half of all irrigation water used in the state, with most users in the dairy sector. Other major irrigation water uses were fruit trees, nut trees, plantation or berry fruits (159 gigalitres), and grapevines (153 gigalitres).

Groundwater was the major source of agricultural water in New South Wales (40% of all water for agricultural purposes), South Australia (62%), Western Australia (43%), and Northern Territory (81%). Water supplied by government or private irrigation schemes was the main source of agricultural water in Victoria (57%), and Queensland (41%); while in Tasmania the main source was surface water (73%).

Australian agricultural businesses spent \$1.4 billion on irrigation-related expenditure in 2008-09. Most of this (\$440.4 million) was irrigation operating expenses (including pump running expenses, repairs and maintenance; but not including costs associated with purchase of water). The next largest irrigation outlay was the purchase of irrigation equipment (\$288.6 million), followed by annual irrigation charges (\$152.1 million).

Half of all expenditure on capital construction of irrigation earthworks and structures in Australia in 2008-09 occurred in Victoria (\$55.6 million). Victoria also recorded 49% of Australia's \$146.7 million expenditure on the purchase of extra water on a temporary basis.

4704.0 The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, 2010. Released 28/05/2010.

At June 2006, the estimated resident Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population was 517,000 people, or 2.5% of total Australian population. In 2006, the Indigenous population had a median age of 21.0 years, compared with 37.0 years for the non-Indigenous population.

More than three-quarters (79%) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 0-14 years were reported as being in excellent or very good health in 2008. Of Indigenous children aged 4-14 years 74% were physically active for at least 60 minutes every day.

Between 2002 and 2008, the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults (15 years and over) who currently smoked daily fell from 49% to 45%, representing the first significant decline in smoking rates since 1994.

In 2008, 19% of Indigenous people aged 15 years and over and 13% of Indigenous children (aged 3–14 years) spoke an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander language. More Indigenous people were identifying with a clan, tribal or language group, 62% in 2008 up from 54% in 2002.

In Victoria, the proportion of Indigenous persons aged 15-24 years who were fully engaged in work/study was 64% compared with 84% of non-Indigenous people in the same age group.

4713.2.55.001 Population Characteristics, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians , Victoria, 2006. Released 04/05/2010. Reissue.

As at 30 June 2006, the preliminary Estimated Indigenous Resident Population (ERP) in Victoria was 30,839 (less than 1% of Victoria's population). Some key characteristics of Victoria's Indigenous population include: 56% of Indigenous respondents were aged under 25 years, there were 3.0 people per Indigenous household on average, and 54% of Indigenous households were living in rented dwellings.

5249.0 Australian National Accounts: Tourism Satellite Account, 2008-09. Released 04/06/2010.

In Australia during 2008-09, internal tourism consumption decreased by 1.0% to \$92,003 million. Net taxes on tourism products decreased by 1.5% to \$6,906 million.

Direct tourism gross value added decreased by 0.3% to \$30,012 million. Direct tourism GDP decreased by 0.4% to \$32,828 million, in contrast to GDP for the Australian economy, which grew by 6.0%.

Accommodation; Air, water and other transport; Cafes, restaurants and takeaway food services; and Other retail trade continue to be the most important tourism industries, together accounting for over 57.2% of direct tourism gross value added in 2008-09.

Direct tourism gross value added decreased by \$87 million (0.3%) in 2008-09 to \$30,012 million. Industries representing the largest decreases in tourism gross value added were Air, water and other transport (down \$286 million, 5.7%), Cafes, restaurants and takeaway food services (down \$109 million, 3.2%), Travel agencies and tour operator services (down \$64 million, 4.2%) and Other retail trade (down \$63 million, 1.6%). The largest positive contributors to direct tourism gross value added were Education and training (up \$294 million, 14.6%) and Ownership of dwellings (up \$238 million, 11.1%).

5368.0.55.004 International Trade in Services by Country, by State and by Detailed Services Category, Calendar Year, 2009. Released 14/05/2010.

Spreadsheets contain trade in services credits and debits data by calendar years for: country and country groups, state, detailed travel service by country and country groups, and education related travel credits by educational sector by type of expenditure. A full range of data is available from 2000.

5368.0.55.006 Characteristics of Australian Exporters, 2008-09. Released 09/04/2010.

There were 45,581 Australian exporters in 2008-09, a decrease of 42 exporters from

2007-08. Of these exporters, 43,259 were exporters of merchandise goods and 3,422 were exporters of services. Of businesses engaged in exporting services, an estimated 1,100 (32%) were also exporters of merchandise goods.

In 2008-09, nearly two-fifths of Australia's total value of goods exports came from Western Australia (38%), followed by Queensland (24%), New South Wales (17%), and Victoria (9%).

Of small businesses with an ABN exporting goods, 37% had their main state of business operations in New South Wales, 27% in Victoria, 18% in Queensland, 9% in Western Australia, 6% in South Australia and less than 1% in Tasmania.

From 2007-08 to 2008-09, the total count of small businesses exporting goods fell for all states. New South Wales had the largest decrease in small exporters, falling by 253, followed by Victoria (168) and Queensland (160).

5506.0 Taxation Revenue, Australia, 2008-09. Released 27/04/2010.

This publication contains statistics of taxation revenue collected by all levels of government in Australia for 1999-2000 to 2008-09. Taxation revenue statistics presented are for the general government sector and include taxes received from public corporations (i.e. government owned/controlled corporations).

In 2008-09, taxation per capita was \$15,435, a decrease of 4.7% from 2007-08. Commonwealth Government taxation per capita fell 4.7% from \$13,288 in 2007-08 to \$12,662 in 2008-09. The taxation per capita for state and local governments combined in 2008-09 was \$2,796, a decrease of 4.8% from \$2,937 in 2007-08. In Victoria during 2008-09, combined state and local government taxation per capita averaged \$2,858.

All states recorded decreases in taxation revenue except Northern Territory. The largest decreases in dollar terms were for Western Australia, falling \$841 million (13.3%) and New South Wales, down \$693 million (3.7%); while Victoria decreased by \$236 million (1.8%), and Northern Territory increased by \$10 million (2.5%).

5512.0 Government Finance Statistics, Australia, 2008-09. Released 27/04/2010.

In 2008-09, total Australian general government expenses for all levels of government were \$441,134 million. Major contributors were expenditure on Social security and welfare (30.7%), Health (18.1%) and Education (14.1%).

State government net worth in Victoria increased 29.0% from \$91,698 million in 2007-08 to \$118,351 million in 2008-09. Total state government expenses in Victoria in 2008-09 were \$39,023 million, with the major factors being Health (27.1%), Education (27.0%) and Public order and safety (10.9%).

Total local government expenses in Victoria were \$5,513 million in 2008-09. Major factors were expenditure on Housing and community amenities (21.3%), Transport and communications (19.3%) and Recreation and culture (17.9%).

5518.0.55.001 Government Finance Statistics, Education, Australia, 2008-09. Released 27/04/2010.

This publication contains statistics on education expenditure by general government sector for 1999-00 to 2008-09. Expenditure on education by all levels of general government in Australia increased by \$6,968 million (12.6%), from \$55,362 million in 2007-08 to \$62,330

million in 2008-09. Total expenditure on education by the Commonwealth Government reached \$21,905 million, with expenditure by state and local governments totalling \$43,313 million. Of total expenditure on education in Australia, \$33,217 million was spent on primary and secondary education and \$22,933 million on tertiary education (universities and TAFE).

6104.0 Labour Statistics in Brief, Australia, 2010. Released 03/06/2010.

This publication contains summary statistics with the emphasis on simple tabular and graphical presentations. Most ABS labour collections are covered, including the Labour Force Survey, a range of employer surveys and the industrial disputes collection. Australian data are compared with those of major Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development member countries.

6287.0 Labour Force Characteristics of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, Estimates from the Labour Force Survey, 2009. Released 03/06/2010.

In 2009, an estimated 196,500 Indigenous people were in the Australian labour force (i.e. employed or unemployed). This represented a labour force participation rate for all Indigenous people aged 15 years and over of 56%.

Of Indigenous people in the labour force, more lived in Regional areas (88,500 people) than Major Cities (69,700) or Remote areas (38,400). Major Cities and Regional Areas had the highest participation rates at 61% and 55% respectively in 2009.

In 2009, there were an estimated 161,200 Indigenous people aged 15 years and over in employment, representing 46% of the Indigenous population aged 15 years and over. An estimated 56,100 Indigenous people were employed in Major Cities, 70,400 were employed in Regional areas and 34,700 were employed in Remote areas in 2009.

In 2009, the national unemployment rate for the Indigenous population was 18%, with an estimated 35,400 unemployed Indigenous people aged 15 years and over. The unemployment rate increased 4 percentage points from the 2008 estimate (14%). The unemployment rate for Indigenous people was 19% in Major Cities and 20% in Regional areas.

6359.0 Forms of Employment, Australia, November 2009. Released 29/04/2010.

In November 2009, 20% of Australian workers were casual employees; that is, did not have paid holiday or sick leave entitlements. This represents over two million people and was a 0.7 percentage point increase from November 2008.

The majority (61%) of employed people were employees with leave entitlements, while a further 10% were independent contractors and 9% were other business operators. Some 58% of employed people in the Accommodation and food services industry did not have paid leave entitlements, followed by Retail trade (35%) and Arts and recreation services (32%).

The occupation with the highest proportion of employed people without paid leave entitlements was Sales (44%), followed by Labourers (41%). Occupations with a low proportion of employed people without paid leave entitlements included Managers (4%) and Professionals (9%). Almost half of all employees (45%) were entitled to paid maternity/paternity leave in November 2009.

7121.0 Agricultural Commodities, Australia, 2008-09. Released 09/04/2010.

The 2008-09 Agricultural Survey revealed that the number of businesses undertaking agricultural activity in Australia had fallen to 136,000 businesses, a 3% decrease from 2007-08. Beef cattle farming remained the largest sector in 2008-09, comprising nearly a third of businesses classified to the agriculture industry.

Sheep and lamb numbers continued to decline and were at their lowest levels since 1905, down to 72.7 million head. A similar fall was reported for pigs with the herd now at 2.3 million, the lowest since 1979.

In 2008-09, Australian milk cattle increased by 3% to 2.6 million head, with the number of cows in milk and dry increasing by 2% to 1.7 million head. Tasmania had the largest percentage increase of all states in dairy cattle, up by 14% to 226 thousand head. Victoria remained the major dairy state, with herd numbers up 2% to 1.6 million head.

Australian meat cattle totalled 25.3 million head in 2008-09, representing an increase of 2% from 2007-08. Notable movements in meat cattle numbers were Western Australia increasing 10% and Northern Territory decreasing 18%.

Production increased for many broadacre crops in 2008-09, in particular wheat, barley and canola, as a result of improved seasonal conditions in some areas. The area sown to wheat for grain in 2008-09 increased by 8% to 13.5 million hectares; while production recovered, rising by 58% to 21.4 million tonnes from 2007-08. Production increased in all the major growing states, except Victoria (down 12%) where production was affected by dry seasonal conditions.

7503.0 Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced, Australia, 2008-09. Released 18/06/2010.

In 2008-09, the gross value of total Australian agricultural production was \$41.8 billion, a decrease of 3% (or \$1.4 billion) from 2007-08. The value of crops fell by 4% to \$22.9 billion in 2008-09; with livestock products decreasing by 15% to \$6.2 billion, driven by falls in the value of wool and milk. Livestock slaughterings and other disposals rose to \$12.8 billion, with increases in the value of sheep and lambs, cattle and calves, and poultry. Marketing costs accounted for \$3.1 billion (or 7%) of the total gross value of agricultural production in 2008-09.

During 2008-09, Victoria produced a gross \$4.3 billion in crops, \$3.0 billion in livestock slaughterings and other disposals, and \$2.9 billion in livestock products. Total marketing costs across these 3 sectors were estimated at \$614.0 million.

8111.0 Research and Experimental Development, Higher Education Organisations, Australia, 2008. Released 26/05/2010.

During 2008, expenditure on Research and experimental development (R&D) by Australian higher education institutions was \$6,717 million (an increase of 24% in current price terms from 2006), and equivalent to 0.53% of 2008 GDP. Human resources devoted to R&D by these institutions in 2008 represented 61,310 person years of effort (PYE).

In 2008, higher education institutions based in New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland combined contributed almost three quarters (72%) of higher education expenditure on R&D (at \$2,015 million, \$1,775 million and \$1,062 million, respectively). Between 2006 and 2008, New South Wales recorded the largest growth in higher education expenditure on R&D in both absolute and percentage terms, rising \$450 million or 29%.

Higher education R&D was comprised of \$6,051 million in current expenditure and \$666

million in capital expenditure. The main sources of funds were General university funds (\$3,523 million or 52% of higher education R&D) and Australian competitive research grants (\$1,181 million or 18%). Expenditure devoted to Medical and health sciences (\$2,064 million) Field of Research (FOR) represented 31% of higher education R&D in 2008, and was almost triple the value of next highest FOR, Biological sciences (\$689 million).

As with higher education expenditure on R&D; New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland accounted for almost three quarters (74%) of total human resources devoted to R&D.

8155.0 Australian Industry, 2008-09. Released 28/05/2010.

Thirteen of the 18 industry divisions that comprise total selected industries at Australia level recorded annual increases in total income. Mining recorded the largest percentage increase (34.7%) and largest absolute increase (\$47.2 billion). Rental, hiring and real estate services recorded the largest percentage decrease (17.2%) and largest absolute decrease (\$18.2 billion).

For total selected industries in Australia, total income in 2008–09 was \$2,555.3 billion. The percentage contribution by small businesses was 31.2%, medium businesses 25.3% and large businesses 43.5%.

In Victoria at end June 2009, Retail trade was the industry employing the highest number of people (332,000). It also had the largest annual increase in employment from June 2008, with an extra 14,000 people employed. Administrative and support services had the largest numeric decrease in employment, down 17,000 to 193,000 at end June 2009. Public administration and safety (private) had the largest proportional decrease (32%) in employment, down to 17,000 people.

For 2008-09 in Victoria, Manufacturing was the industry with the highest sales and service income (\$108.6 billion). Mining recorded the largest proportional increase in sales and service income from 2007-08, up 61% to \$10.7 billion. Retail trade recorded the largest absolute increase, up \$8.5 billion to \$84.5 billion. Public administration and safety (private) recorded the largest proportional decrease from 2007-08, down 16% to \$1.6 billion; while Wholesale trade recorded the largest absolute decrease, down \$5.2 billion to \$104.1 billion.

8696.0 Community Services, 2008-09. Released 24/06/2010.

During the 2008–09 financial year, \$25.2 billion was spent on direct community services activities and a further \$4.0 billion on non-direct and related community services activities.

Total expenditure on direct activities comprised of \$13.8 billion by 'not for profit' organisations, \$6.7 billion by 'for profit' businesses, \$3.8 billion by Commonwealth, state and territory government organisations and \$0.9 billion by local government. In addition Commonwealth, state and territory government organisations provided a further \$9.5 billion in funding and payments to private organisations and self-employed contractors.

Residential care was the area with the largest direct expenditure, with organisations spending \$12.6 billion on activities such as aged and disabled care, as well as transitional accommodation. A total of \$5.9 billion was spent on personal and social support activities, and \$3.8 billion on child care.

At end June 2009, there were 570,646 persons employed by organisations providing community services, 78% of whom were female. Most employees were aged between 26 and 46 years and over 42% were employed on a permanent part time basis.

There were 325,440 volunteers assisting community services organisations during 2008-09, providing 78 hours of voluntary services on average for the year.

Other releases

1006.0 Forward Work Program, 2010-11 to 2013-14. Released 22/06/2010.

1104.0 CURF Microdata News, May 2010. Released 27/05/2010.

1303.0 Discover the ABS, 2010. Released 20/05/2010.

1386.0 What's New in Regional Statistics, Jun 2010. Released 23/06/2010.

4173.0 Time Use on Recreation and Leisure Activities, 2006. Released 11/05/2010.

**4656.5 Household Choices Related to Water and Energy (WA), October 2009.
Released 16/06/2010.**

**8166.0 Summary of IT Use and Innovation in Australian Business, 2008-09. Released
24/06/2010.**

8418.0 Mining Statistics Newsletter, 2009 to 2010. Released 10/06/2010.

**8635.2.55.001 Tourist Accommodation, Small Area Data, Victoria, Dec 2009. Released
08/04/2010.**

Information papers, research papers, and classifications

**1216.0.55.003 Australian Statistical Geography Standard: Design of the Statistical Areas Level 4, Capital Cities and Statistical Areas Level 3, May 2010. Released
21/05/2010. First Issue.**

ABS intends to replace the current Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) with the new Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) effective from July 2011. This is the third and final information paper designed to explain aspects of ASGS. Its purpose is to provide background to stakeholders regarding ASGS Statistical Area 3s (SA3s) and 4s (SA4s) to facilitate consultation on their design.

**4619.0.55.001 Land Management Practices in the Great Barrier Reef Catchments,
Final, 2008-09. Released 23/04/2010. First Issue.**

To support sustainable management of the Great Barrier Reef, the Australian Government is working with land managers in catchments discharging into the reef to increase management practices that contribute to improved water quality. The primary purpose of this survey was to provide benchmark data on these practices for each catchment. Experimental estimates are also available in the publication Land Management Practices in the Great Barrier Reef Catchments, Experimental Estimates, 2008-09 (cat. no. 4619.0.55.002).

5249.0.55.003 Implementation of revised international statistical standards in the Australian Tourism Satellite Account, Apr 2010. Released 28/04/2010. First Issue.

ABS compiles the Australian Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) in accordance with international standards and related classifications. The international TSA standard, the

Tourism Satellite Account: Recommended Methodological Framework 2008, was updated recently in parallel with international standards for national and international accounts. Related classifications have also been updated, in particular the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC06).

8635.0.55.003 Information Paper: Future changes to Tourist Accommodation, Australia, May 2010. Released 06/05/2010. First Issue.

The Survey of Tourist Accommodation is a quarterly survey that measures demand and supply of tourist accommodation. Since 2005, the Department of Resources, Energy, and Tourism has provided funding to ABS to expand the survey scope to include hotels, motels and serviced apartments with 5 to 14 rooms, caravan parks, visitor hostels, holiday flats, units and houses.

Funding for the expanded scope ceased at end-June quarter 2010. Results for June quarter will be published on 30 September 2010. The Survey of Tourist Accommodation will only collect and publish information from accommodation providers in core scope of the survey from September quarter 2010. Current breakdowns of core scope by tourism region and star grading are not affected by this change.

Main Economic Indicators (MEIs). Also released during the past quarter were a number of monthly and quarterly MEIs which can be accessed from the ABS website home page <www.abs.gov.au>. Examples of MEIs include: housing finance, building approvals, labour force, consumer price index, sales of new motor vehicles, and retail trade.

ABS Statistical training and information seminars

ABS Statistical Training and Information Seminars

Venue: ABS Victorian Office, Level 5 South Tower, 485 La Trobe Street, Melbourne.

Time: full day courses generally run from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm.

What Statistical training courses are available at ABS Victoria?

- Analysing Survey Data Made Simple (ASDMS)
- Making Quality Informed Decisions (MQID)
- Turning Data Into Information (TDII)
- Basic Survey Design (BSD)
- Understanding Demographic Data (UDD)
- Principles of Questionnaire Design (PQD)
- Introduction to Labour Statistics (ILS)
- Introduction to ABS Statistical Collections
- Valuing Australia's Environment (VAE)
- Using ABS data in SuperTABLE

The following courses are scheduled to run in Victoria in the next 6 months.

Analysing Survey Data Made Simple

This two-day computer-based course develops practical skills in basic statistical and

graphical data analysis techniques using Microsoft Excel. It aims to equip participants with the skills to:

- identify the steps involved in data analysis;
- summarise and display survey data in graphical and tabular form;
- find simple relationships in survey data; and
- test for statistically significant differences between survey results.

This course is designed for people with limited training and exposure to statistical analysis who need to learn how to analyse and describe data that have been collected in surveys. A mathematical background is beneficial but not essential. Previous experience using spreadsheets is recommended.

Length: 2 days

27-28 Oct, 2010

Cost \$750 (inc. GST) per person

Making Quality Informed Decisions

This one-day course introduces the concept of 'holistic quality' through the use of a data quality framework. The framework ensures that users of statistics are able to assess whether the statistics are fit for their intended use. This course provides participants with an understanding of: how to set up a quality framework, risk management in making statistical decisions, how to assess datasets in the context of data need, and using information on data quality to make better informed decisions. This course would be useful for anyone who uses statistics in decision making, or is involved in producing statistics and wants to ensure that they are used appropriately.

Length: 1 day

31 August, 2010

Cost: \$450 (inc. GST) per person

Turning Data Into Information (TDII)

This course develops skills in interpreting and analysing data, and communicating information clearly and effectively. Analytical thinking skills are developed to enable the transformation of data into meaningful information such as written reports. A key theme of this course is analytical thinking to ensure relevant messages are extracted from data to meet set objectives.

Length: 2 days

Fee: \$750.00 (inc. GST) per person

20-21 July, 23-24 November; 2010

Basic Survey Design

This two-day course aims to provide a grounding in all facets of sample survey development. Topics include developing survey objectives, advantages and disadvantages of various collection methodologies, questionnaire design, data processing and reporting of results. This course would be useful for anyone who conducts their own surveys, or who needs a broad understanding of the issues associated with the survey process.

Length: 2 days

Fee: \$750 (inc. GST) per person

24-25 August, 2010

Understanding Demographic Data

This is a one day interactive workshop on demographic statistics. The workshop provides an overview of demographic data, with information on sources, methods of collection and production, and quality issues. Practical exercises using tools for demographic analysis are included. This course is designed for people who use and/or need to understand demographic data to formulate policies and programs. The course covers: the relevance of demographic data to contemporary social and economic issues, population dynamics such as population momentum and ageing, individual components of population growth (births/fertility, deaths/mortality, internal and overseas migration), and how these components are used in the production of population estimates, and population estimates and projections (including for Indigenous populations and small areas).

Length: 1 day

9 September, 2010

Cost: \$450 (inc. GST) per person

Principles of Questionnaire Design

This two-day course aims to enable participants to understand and apply the basic techniques used in developing a survey questionnaire. The course includes facilitated exercises to give participants an understanding of how to design and evaluate a questionnaire. The course content covers: defining survey objectives, developing survey questions and instructions to accompany questions, testing the questionnaire; and questionnaire layout. This course would be useful for anyone who needs to design a questionnaire that will collect information accurately and concisely.

Length: 2 days

13-14 October, 2010

Cost \$750 (inc. GST) per person

For further information on ABS statistical training go to the ABS website <www.abs.gov.au>. Select 'Services' then ABS Training. For courses listed above, Esther Cramer (03 9615 7904) is ABS Victoria's training contact, or email queries/registrations to <victoria.statistics@abs.gov.au>. Course descriptions are available here: Victorian Information and Registration Form. Additional sessions may be scheduled according to demand.

Points of contact

Points of Contact

NATIONAL INFORMATION AND REFERRAL SERVICE

The National Information and Referral Service (NIRS) is the first point of contact for all your statistical and publication enquiries.

Phone: 1300 135 070

Fax: 1300 135 211

Email: <client.services@abs.gov.au>

ABS VICTORIAN OFFICE

There is an ABS Office in every capital city. The ABS Office in Victoria is located on Level 5, South Tower, 485 LaTrobe Street, Melbourne. To email the Regional Director or Statistical Leadership contacts listed below use <victoria.statistics@abs.gov.au>.

Postal address

GPO Box 2796Y
Melbourne Vic 3001

Regional Director

ABS Victoria
Lane Masterton
(03) 9615 7330

VICTORIAN STATISTICAL LEADERSHIP CONTACTS

Director
Pam Boulton
(03) 9615 7880

Assistant Director
Natalie Sloan
(03) 9615 7406

Assistant Director
Frank Sortino
(03) 9615 7510

Assistant Director - Victorian Statistical Analytical Services
James Darragh
(03) 9615 7049

STATISTICS VICTORIA (cat no 1100.2)

Esther Cramer
(03) 9615 7904
For a free subscription, email:
<victoria.statistics@abs.gov.au>

VICTORIAN STATISTICS ADVISORY FORUM (VSAF)

VSAF is the major forum for statistical liaison between Victorian government agencies and ABS. The following group of departmental representatives meet 4 times or more each year.

VSAF Chair
Mary Cavar

Department of Treasury and Finance
Peter Froutzis

Department of Premier and Cabinet
Helen Meyer-Tinning

Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development

Chris West

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

Dr Sara Glover

Department of Health

Dr Connie Spinoso

Department of Human Services

Nigel Brand

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Dr Jonathon Spear

Department of Transport

Philip Norman

Department of Planning and Community Development

Dr Tim Patton

Department of Sustainability and Environment

Elizabeth Thomas

Department of Primary Industries

Chris Chan

Australian Bureau of Statistics, Victoria

Lane Masterton

About this Release

Statistics Victoria is a quarterly newsletter primarily targetted to Victorian state and local government users providing information about new developments, recent statistical releases, seminars, training and reviews.

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